(3) If paddy be taken to the Thoduvetti market for sale, there was the trouble from the Civil Supplies Officers.

(4) The people of the *pakuthies* of Vilavancode, Arudesappattu, Mulakumel, Kunnathur, Nallur, &c., of the Vilavancode taluk, who had to take paddy to Palukal, Edakode, Kalial and other places, had to pass through Parassala which was within the Trivandrum Division. According to the rules of the Civil Supplies Department, they could not take paddy outside the Padmanabhapuram Division without a pass. They should be exempted from the production of passes.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

65. Need for the creation of an Advisory Board to regulate irrigation in South Travancore.

Mr. D. C. Joseph (Member, Nominated) referred to the paddy famine in the State and observed that, if proper and efficient arrangements had not been made by the Government through its Civil Supplies Department at considerable cost for importing paddy and distributing it among the people, a large proportion would have died of starvation. The situation to which the State had been driven was sufficient to convince both the people and the Government that everything possible should be done to increase the output of paddy in the land. He was aware that steps were already being taken to do everything possible to relieve suffering. Still a good deal remained to be done in the way of affording irrigational facilities. The people had been benefited by the Pachippara dam, and through the energy and sympathetic attitude of the P. W. Officers in charge of irrigation, the feeder channels were also full of water. Even then the maximum good to the people could not accrue with the help of officers alone. The co-operation and assistance of the ryots were essential. The view points of the officers and of the ryots were different. The latter knew instinctively when water was required and when other help was wanted to bring about a bumper crop. The Member, therefore, suggested the creation of a Board consisting of officers and intelligent ryots to attend to irrigation and other agricultural matters.

Dewan's reply.—Necessary steps will be taken in the matter of constituting the Board.

66. Provision of roads and other means of communication for the benefit of the depressed classes.

Mr. D. C. Joseph (Member, Nominated) said that a good deal was being heard about the ways and means for the elevation of the depressed classes, but enough progress had not been made. It should also be admitted that it was not easy to produce in an year or two tangible results in the process of ameliorating the condition of a people who had been trodden under foot for generations. It was not the Member's idea to speak of granting concessions to them such as building sites, wells, &c. He would confine himself to what was required for them for tolerable existence. The villages of depressed classes in Nanjinad were, as a rule, situated away from habitations and highways; their occupation had doomed them to live on the banks of tanks and in raised places surrounded on all sides by paddy fields. That made it hard for them to have access to public roads without which they could not convey their articles to markets and other places of business. Nor were they in a position to take to their villages necessaries of life. The Member's prayer was for the removal of such hindrances to their development. They were denied all facilities of self-development and self-expression. The means of ingress and egress were their primary and chief requirements. The roads he asked for were not long ones, but were only tap-roads to join their villages and the nearest village road. If such roads be opened, they would have free access to neighbouring towns and villages which by itself would foster a sense of self-respect. The hardships attending their movements, especially during the rainy seasons, would be at an end. Travelling during both day and night would be possible. They could have carts to convey their commodities such as straw and manure to other places for sale

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and bring in exchange other articles which they might require. Unless they who formed the labour of the land for paddy cultivation were thus protected and helped, it was impossible for the landlords to get labour. Thus their elevation was a matter of economic importance also.

In the southern taluks of Agastiswaram, Tovala and Eraniel alone there were about 200 villages, exclusively inhabited by the depressed classes, and their population was about 50,000. If an investigation could be made of the villages, it would be found that the means of communication they had was of the poorest kind. Their condition in respect of roads was brought to the notice of the late Dewan, Sir Rajagopalachari, and, as a result of the representation made, about 70 village roads were sanctioned by Government but not one was made till now. It was not requested that all the roads required should be cut immediately; but the programme might be carried out in an year or two. The lanes were there and they formed the property of Government ; they had been invariably encroached upon. If the encroachments could be removed and the lanes broadened, the people themselves would, by their personal labour, make it cartable. As a first step the 9 villages of Kakkad, Kadetti, Narikulam, Bheemanagari, Ratnapuram, Puliaudy, Ambilikonam, Kuppayady and Ikkianam might be taken up and a road given to each village. There was a proposal to cut a road through Kakannoor line which was highly objectionable, as it was circuitous to a length of miles. It was possible to cut a road less than a mile from near the southern extremity of the Suchindram bridge southwards. It was also too far from the Suchindram temple to trench on its sanctity. It would cost a very much smaller sum, as it would pass through a *poramboke* lane. In the case of the other 8 village roads also, there were *poramboke* lanes which had been encroached upon. In conclusion, the Member prayed for the Kakkad road being given first.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the Kakkad road, the late Dewan, Sir Rajagopalachari, has decided, after inspection, that the road is not necessary. That is the final decision of Government with reference to this road. The other roads are under the consideration of the Chief Engineer. As regards the encroachments, the Member will do well to draw the attention of the Dewan Peishkar.

67. Repair to, and improvement of, irrigation tanks in the Neyyattinkara taluk.

Mr. M. Krishna Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) submitted that, in response to the representations of the people, an annual grant of Rs. 5,000 was sanctioned in 1066 for the repair, and improvement of, the irrigation tanks in the Neyyattinkara taluk and that it was not continued long, as the extension of the Kodayar Irrigation scheme to the taluk was talked of. As that project also failed, the people began to ventilate their grievances as a result of which a Committee was appointed to undertake a thorough investigation and propose definite steps to be taken to put the irrigation tanks in order. The P. W. Sub-Divisional Officer and the Tahsildar had been at work and had made out a list of 150 tanks including the Karuppatty and Vandiyur *chiras*. It had been stated that an estimate of cost for improving the 150 tanks was in course of preparation. To judge from past experience, it was not likely that the estimate would arrive in the Huzur Cutcherry in time for inclusion in the next year's budget. In effect, nothing would be done during the current year also. The opinion of the President and other official members of the Committee was that, if practical work should be turned out, a definite amount of money should be sanctioned and with that amount the repair and restoration of such number of tanks as could be easily carried out should begin. That was the view of the people also. The Member's request, therefore, was that a definite amount should be sanctioned and that amount should be proportionately divided among the various *pakuthies*. Under the Irrigation Regulation, the irrigation works could be divided into major minor, and petty. There should be an authenticated list dividing the irrigation tanks under the three heads. The people should do the restoration of all the petty works, which they would do if the list was ready.

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